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STEPHEN P MCNAMARA
ST ONGE STEWARD JOHNSTON & REENS LLC
986 BEDFORD STREET
STAMFORD, CT 069055619

EXAMINER

CHOI, KYLE JAEHUN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3623

DATE MAILED: 02/13/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/340,566

Applicant(s)

TURK ET AL.

Examiner

Kyle J. Choi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 March 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 16-23 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 16-23 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 May 2002 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☒ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>20</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

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DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a **Non-Final** Office Action in response to the communication filed March 8, 2002. By the amendment, claims 16-23 have been added. **Claims 12-23** are now pending in this application.

Continued Prosecution Application

2. A request for Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in March 8, 2002. However, request for a CPA is only available for applications filed before **May 29, 2000** (see 37 CFR §1.53(d)(1)(i)(A)). Because applicant has filed a CPA once before on **April 23, 2001** (i.e., the filing date for the present application is the CPA date and not the original filing date), this application is no longer eligible for a CPA. Accordingly, Applicant's request for a CPA has been converted as a Request for Continued Prosecution (RCE).

3. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, **the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn**

pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on March 8, 2002 has been entered.

Response to Amendments

4. A short summary of the prosecution history, in relevant parts, is in order to clarify the substance of the present Office Action.

In the first Office Action, the Examiner rejected the pending claims as well an objection to the drawings as failing to show each and every element claimed (paper no. 3).

In response to this objection, applicant submitted Figure 2 as well as amendments to the claims to address the rejections (paper no. 6) and a terminal disclaimer (paper no. 5).

Subsequently, the Examiner issued a final Office Action (paper no. 7) and the applicant in response filed an after-final amendment (paper no. 8) proposing to amend the claims but was found to be unpersuasive (Advisory Office Action, paper no. 9).

In response, Applicant filed the first request for CPA (paper no. 11) with a preliminary amendment that amended all the pending claims (paper no. 12).

In response, the Examiner issued a non-final Office Action rejecting all the claims (paper no. 14).

In response, Applicant filed an amendment (paper no. 15), which was subsequently finally rejected (paper no. 16). This final Office Action was mailed on November 27, 2001.

For reasons unknown, the Office received a communication entitled "Second Preliminary Amendment" on January 30, 2002 in response to the outstanding final Office Action with the mail certification date being indicated as November 16, 2001. The substance of this communication was indicated as being an "amended patent **application** (emphasis added)" and provided what appears to be a substitute specification with substantially new materials added thereto and a clean set of claims with more claims added. However, there were no parenthetical expressions in the claims as to indicate what claims were amended (i.e., labeled as "amended") or added (i.e., labeled as "new"). Rather, the "amendment" appeared to be a substitute "application" and not an amended specification and claims. ***For the record, this particular communication was not entered*** because it was submitted in response to an outstanding final Office Action (i.e., it was considered to be an amendment under Rule 116 despite the title "Second Preliminary Amendment").

Again for reasons unknown, before an Advisory Office Action was issued by the Office in response to the after-final communication above, Applicant filed a request for CPA on March

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8, 2002 (paper no. 18) with a preliminary amendment (paper no. 19). This preliminary amendment essentially is the same material filed as the above-discussed unentered after-final communication. Again, this preliminary amendment characterizes the submitted materials as an "amended patent **application** (emphasis added)" with a new specification and new set of claims. It is also noted that the changes indicated in the "Marked-up Version" of the submitted specification indicates changes with respect to the material found in the unentered substitute specification and not in reference to the specification pending at the time of the final Office Action (paper no. 16). Despite this discrepancy, **this preliminary amendment currently stands entered**.

Subsequent to the filing of the CPA, Applicant has filed:

- what appears to be a new specification and claims on April 5, 2002 (paper no. 21) that seems to be a copy of the preliminary amendment (paper no. 19) (note: this communication **was not entered** because it was not ascertainable as to the nature of the communication, i.e., there was no cover page or any other indication in the communication as to how the Office was to treat this communication) ,

- what appears to be a "Marked-Up" version of the claims filed with the amended application on May 15, 2002 (paper no.

22) (note: this communication **was entered**),

- another terminal disclaimer May 24, 2002 (paper no. 23) (note: this communication **was entered**), and

- a new set of drawings on May 30, 2002, showing a new Figure 1, Figure 2 depicting what was originally filed as Figure 1, and Figure 3 depicting what was previous added as Figure 2 (note: this communication **was entered**).

It is based on these events that the present Office Action is issued.

Oath/Declaration

5. The oath or declaration is defective. A new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date is required. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

The oath or declaration is defective because:

Non-initialed and/or non-dated alterations have been made to the oath or declaration. See 37 CFR 1.52(c).

It does not identify the mailing or post office address of each inventor. A mailing or post office address is an address at which an inventor customarily receives his or her mail and may be either a home or business address. **The mailing or post office address should include the ZIP Code designation.** The mailing or post office address may be

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provided in an application data sheet or a supplemental oath or declaration. See 37 CFR 1.63(c) and 37 CFR 1.76.

It does not identify the citizenship of each inventor. In particular "American" is not a proper citizenship designation. The designation needs to identify a country of citizenship (e.g., United States of America).

6. Furthermore, this application presents a claim for subject matter not originally claimed or embraced in the statement of the invention. In particular, the amended application filed on March 8, 2002 contains new matter was explained in detail below. A supplemental oath or declaration is required under 37 CFR 1.67. The new oath or declaration must properly identify the application of which it is to form a part, preferably by application number and filing date in the body of the oath or declaration. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

Drawings

7. Drawings are objected to for containing new matter. Figure 3 (i.e., previously added Figure 2) constitutes new matter because the drawing shows more features than what was disclosed as originally filed. In particular, Figure 3 shows a very specific and detailed example of what the specification describes as an "electronic coin". The specification as originally filed did not include this figure or the specific contents described. Applicant has support and therefore may

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file a drawing that depicts the various components of the originally disclosed components of the electronic coin (i.e., a block designated as: measure of the commodity, a unique serial number, a specific storage site, date/time stamp, and a digital signature). However, the drawing as currently depicted on Figure 3 contains more features than what was originally disclosed at the time of filing (i.e., the specific code, specific length, specific order of each code section, etc.). Hence, this Examiner suggests submitting a new Figure 3 that contains only the subject matter that finds support in the specification as originally filed.

In considering a new figure, this Examiner further suggests that the figure should depict what is "claimed". That is to say, claim 12 has now been amended to recite a computer program product that causes a computer to "perform" the recited steps. Accordingly, a figure depicting the various steps in a flow diagram would be enough to provide a drawing that shows every claimed feature.

With respect to submitting proposed drawing corrections/substitute drawings, Applicant is reminded that any proposed drawing correction must be in the form of a pen-and-ink sketch **showing changes** in red ink or with the changes otherwise highlighted. See MPEP § 608.02(v). It is noted that Figures 2

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and 3 filed on May 30, 2002 are really corrected Figures 1 and 2. However, Applicant failed to submit a proposed drawing correction indicating the changes (i.e., changing "Figure 1" to "Figure 2" and "Figure 2" to "Figure 3") before filing the substitute drawings. Applicant's cooperation is solicited in submitting drawing changes according to the procedures as outlined in the rules to assist the Examiner in properly ascertaining the nature of the submission.

Specification

8. The amendment filed March 8, 2002 is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132 because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132 states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. All the additions introduced in the substitute specification constitute new matter as none of the added materials were disclosed in the specification as originally filed.

As best understood by this Examiner, the "amended patent application" of March 8, 2002 seems to be an attempt at combining the specification of US patent application number 08/465,430, now US Patent Number 5,671,364 (herein referred to as '430) and US patent application number 08/921,760, now US Patent Number 5,983,207 herein referred to as '207) into one

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application by taking advantage of the fact that the present application is a DIVISIONAL application of '207). Applicant is reminded that none of the subject matter disclosed in the specification of '430 (directed solely to electronic payment through clearing house) was ever a part of the specification in parent application '207 (directed solely to the manner directed to issuing of electronic currency based on precious commodities). Moreover, the specification of the present application as originally filed did not contain any of the subject matter disclosed in '430. None of the applications in the continuity chain of the present application ever disclosed both subject matters as disclosed in '430 and '207 in the same specification. Consequently, Applicant's attempt to now combine the subject matter into one specification in the present application finds no support in the disclosure as originally filed and is therefore considered new matter.

Further consideration is given to the fact that Applicant had the opportunity to incorporate the subject matter of '430 into the specification filed with '207 while '430 was still pending. Applicant is now attempting to incorporate the specification of '430, which is no long pending (i.e., now an issued patent) into the present application. Lack of copendency

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is another reason why this addition is considered to be improper.

Examiner suggests two possible remedies for resolving the new matter objection (although Applicant is neither limited nor obligated to these two options):

- a. Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action in order to maintain the pendency and further prosecution of the subject matter as originally disclosed in the present application; or
- b. File a Continuation-In-Part (CIP) application to have the new matter entered.

In the interest of advancing prosecution of the present application, all subject matter directed to the new matter will not be considered in the instant Office Action.

Election/Restrictions

9. Newly submitted **claims 16-23** are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons:

Original **claims 12-15** are directed to a computer program product for identifying various components of an electronic currency.

New **claims 16-23** are directed to a payment system and method for effectuating electronic payment based on valuable commodities through a computer network.

Furthermore, these claims are directed to new matter introduced for the first time as discussed above (see objection to Specification).

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. **Accordingly, claims 16-23 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.** See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Claim Objections

10. **Claims 13-15** are objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 12, from which claims 13-15 depend, was amended to change the recitation "An electronic coin" to "A computer program product". Consequently, claims 13-15 should also be amended in the same manner. Appropriate correction is required.

Priority

11. Before presenting the rejections as set forth below, Applicant is reminded that the instant application is a divisional application of '207, filed August 26, 1997, which is a continuation-in-part application of '430, which is a further continuation-in-part application of 08/015,588 (hereinafter referred to as '588). Upon further inspection of the disclosures of these cases, this Examiner found no support for the invention as recited in claims 12-15 in any of the CIP applications. Since only the continuing subject matter enjoys the effective filing dates of previous applications, the premise of the instant Office Action relies on the effective filing date of the immediate parent application '207 (i.e., **August 26, 1997**) since none of the other applications provide support for a computer program product causing a computer to perform the recited steps of claim 12.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

11. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

12. **Claims 12 and 13** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Rosen** (US Pat. No. 5,453,601), previously submitted by the Applicant.

Rosen teaches an electronic (i.e., computer-based) monetary system comprising an electronic note that is detected by the computer system (i.e., computer program code), the electronic data file representing the electronic note containing:

- a Note identifier (col. 19, ln. 65) uniquely identifying the electronic note file,

- an amount or value of the electronic note (col. 20, ln. 4) that represents the amount of the demand deposits (e.g., cash) held at the Issuing Bank that is backing the electronic note,

- a date-of-issue for the electronic note (col. 19, ln. 66), and

- a digital signature used to authenticate the electronic note file (col. 20, ln. 27).

It is the premise of this Office Action that the "demand deposits" that are held at the Issuing Bank that "backs" every electronic note issued by the Issuing Bank is considered to be a "valuable commodity" because demand deposits are anything deposited at a financial institution that can be withdrawn at any time (i.e., upon demand). Demand deposits usually refer to cash but are not exclusive to cash only. Further, cash (i.e., currency) itself is considered to be a "valuable commodity" since currencies themselves are traded/exchanged on the currency exchange just like any other commodity. Hence, applying the broadest reasonable interpretation of the claims, it is respectfully submitted that Rosen anticipates the limitations of claims 12 and 13 as currently recited.

13. Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by either **Doggett et al.** (US Pat. No. 5,677,955) or **Simon** (US Pat. No. 5,768,385).

Doggett et al. teaches a computer-based transaction system that generates electronic data containing:

- an identification number of the electronic data (col. 10, ln. 6),
- an amount of a valuable commodity (i.e., cash) that the electronic data represents (col. 10, ln. 8),

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- a date the electronic data was issued (col. 6), and
- a digital signature used to authenticate the electronic data (col. 10, ln. 12).

Simon teaches a computer-based transaction system that generates electronic cash, the electronic data file containing:

- a random number unique to the electronic data (col. 5, ln. 60) to prevent double spending (col. 6, ln. 65),
- an amount of a valuable commodity (i.e., cash) that the electronic data represents (col. 6, ln. 1),
- a date of issue (col. 10, ln. 24), and
- a digital signature used to authenticate the electronic data (col. 6, lns. 1-2).

Again, it is respectfully submitted that cash (i.e., currency) itself is considered to be a "valuable commodity" since currencies themselves are traded/exchanged on the currency exchange just like any other commodity. Hence, applying the broadest reasonable interpretation of the claims, it is respectfully submitted that both Doggett et al. and Simon anticipate the limitations of claims 12 and 13 as currently recited.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

14. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

15. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary.

Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

16. **Claims 12-15** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **McAndrews** ("Making Payments on the Internet").

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McAndrews teaches that in making computerized electronic payments on the Internet, the basic elements of "digital cash" includes:

- a serial number to prevent double use (p. 7, col. 2, ln. 35),
- an amount of valuable commodity that the electronic data file represents such as cash (p. 13, col. 1, ln. 34), short-term securities (p. 13, col. 1, ln. 37), or gold (p. 13, col. 1, ln. 43), and
- a digital signature to provide authentication of the electronic data file (p. 7, col. 2, ln. 30).

McAndrews does not teach whether the digital cash data contains the date of issuance. However, the Examiner takes Official Notice that it is old and well known to one of ordinary skill in the art of conducting digital financial transactions to include in the electronic data a date of issuance. Such date is typically used to determine how old the electronic data is to prevent long periods of inactivity as a security measure. (See, for instance, *Rosen* and *Simon* as applied above).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the present invention was made to have included a date of issue in the electronic data file representing digital cash because doing so would ensure security

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and reliability of the digital cash by detecting long periods of inactivity. Such digital cash would be suspect since there is always a concern of counterfeiting and fraud as explained in McAndrews (col. 7, col. 2, lns. 28-31).

17. **Claims 14-15** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over any one of *Rosen, Doggett et al.* and *Simon* as applied above to claim 12 in view of *McAndrews*.

Rosen, Doggett et al. and Simon are all electronic payment systems that issue an electronic data to settle a payment obligation. In particular, Rosen generates electronic notes that are backed by demand deposits placed in the trust of the Issuing Bank. Doggett et al. generates electronic checks that are redeemable to the amount backed in the user's bank account. Simon generates digital currency based on cash used to purchase the digital currency. Although all of these systems generate electronic data files containing the amount of valuable commodity that the files represent (i.e., cash), these references do not specifically teach that the valuable commodity is a precious metal (claim 14) such as gold (claim 15).

McAndrews, as applied above to claims 12-15, teaches that there are alternatives to backing digital forms of payment such as gold (p. 13, col. 1, ln. 43). Moreover, examiner takes

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Official Notice that gold standard or gold reserve standards for backing a particular currency is old and well known. Hence, it would have been obvious for one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the present invention was made to have used precious metals such as gold as the backing for the electronic payments as generated in Rosen, Doggett et al. and Simon because using previous metals such as gold to back any form of payment is old and well known to one of ordinary skill in the art, and McAndrews specifically contemplates such an option for digital currencies. Since gold is and historically has been the main currency standard, one with ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to use a universally accepted form of exchange (i.e., gold) to generate electronic forms of payment since doing so would ensure that anyone, regardless of nationality, would accept such backed payments.

This is most applicable to the teaching of Rosen since the system as disclosed in Rosen teaches backing all issued electronic notes with "demand deposits". As discussed above, demand deposits can be any negotiable instrument (e.g., gold certificates). Given McAndrew's teaching for suggesting gold as a backing for digital cash and the generally accepted practice of depositing fungible assets such as gold certificates (or the actual gold) with financial institutions, it would have been

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obvious for one with ordinary skill in the art to have used Rosen's system to issue electronic notes based on precious metal such as gold.

18. **Claims 12-15** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Lindsey et al.** (US Pat. No. 5,285,383).

As to claims 12 and 13, Lindsey et al. teaches a computerize system for trading valuable commodities. Lindsey teaches the system using the example of cotton trading but also teaches that

...the principles and concepts of the invention can be utilized in other environments, and are not thereby limited to commodities or the equipments shown. (col. 3, lns. 40-44).

In particular, Lindsey et al. teaches generating electronic data files that uniquely identifies the commodity to be traded (col. 4, lns. 62-65; col. 17, lns. 64-68), the amount of the commodity that the electronic data represents (col. 5, lns. 6-8; col. 18, ln. 50), and date of creating the electronic file (col. 20, ln. 6). Lindsey et al. does not specifically teach using digital signatures to authenticate the electronic data file. However, Lindsey et al. does teach validating the data based on various data cross-checking techniques (col. 5, lns. 59-60; col. 26, lns. 18-20). Examiner takes Official Notice that digital

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signatures/certificates authenticating electronic trading data is old and well known to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the present invention was made to have used digital signatures to verify authenticity of the electronic data file representing the commodities to be traded generated in Lindsey et al. because digital signatures are precisely what those skilled in the computer security art use in effectuating the validation techniques as described in Lindsay et al. Almost all electronic trading and exchange systems employed digital signatures at the time the present invention was made to verify that the electronic trade tickets (i.e., the electronic "titles" generated in Lindsey et al.) are authentic for purchases to rely on in performing the trades.

Conclusion

19. No claims allowed.

20. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- **Buck** ("Electronic Commerce - Would, Could and Should You Use Current Internet Payment Mechanisms?") discloses various payment models used on the Internet including digital cash models.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Kyle J. Choi** whose telephone number is (703)306-5845. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Tariq Hafiz** can be reached on (703)305-9643.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the **Receptionist** whose telephone number is (703)308-1113.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

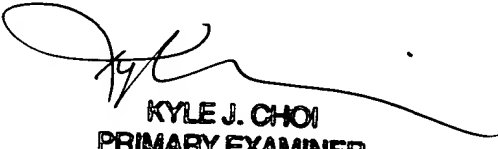
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Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park
5, 2451 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, 7th floor receptionist.


**KYLE J. CHOI
PRIMARY EXAMINER**
Art Unit 3623

February 8, 2003